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Mount Baldface, in the White mountains, which is 3600 feet high, and at other points in the White mountains, where I could observe the course of the ancient glaciers by trains of boulders and also by glacial grooves. These peculiar lunoid furrows are evidently made by rounded boulders freezing into the bottom of the glacier; the stone being thus frozen solidly into the ice, serves as a rude gouge, wearing out a crescent-shaped depression. The succession of several such furrows appears to be the result of the stone's slipping from the ice and turning over and becoming frozen in again during the advancing and receding motions of the glacier.

The presence, then, of these furrows is good evidence that the ice moved down the bay seaward. They could not have been made by floe ice, as the polar current flows along the coast at right angles to the direction of the bay, while it also appears that similar marks are abundant on the summits of some of the White mountain peaks. In a future paper I shall have more to say of glacial phenomena in Labrador.

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EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: A. S. PACKARD, JR., AND E. D. COPE.

— The intelligent press of the country is gradually adopting the position taken by the *NATURALIST*, in its August number, on the question of the insanity of Guiteau, the murderer of President Garfield. This is, that whether legally insane or not, the mental condition of the prisoner falls within the boundary-line of insanity.

This was simply an adaptation of the well known views of Herbert Spencer and Dr. Maudsley. It is to be hoped that a full investigation of Guiteau's case will lead to an important modification of the legal definition of insanity, and of the laws relative to the treatment of insane criminals. In the first place, the present definition, which only admits insanity where the criminal is unable to judge of the consequences of an act, is certainly erroneous. Persons undoubtedly insane often act with deliberate design, and great forethought. It would be a safe, though not a perfect definition of insanity, to describe it as a state of mind in which acts are committed, which are in direct opposition to the plain and obvious interests, not of persons affected by the act, but of

the actor. Here the question of the ignorance of consequences is restricted to its legitimate field, the instinct of self-preservation, through which the rational faculty has originated. It is another way of stating that the emotional or sentimental elements of character have so far overcome the rational as to cause the commission of self-destructive acts. Under this definition an act of violence committed in savage society would not indicate insanity, while the same act committed in civilized society, where means of detection and punishment abound, would be properly regarded as that of an insane person.

In such a classification, criminals are those who disregard the rights of person and property with a *reasonable* expectation of advancing their own interests thereby.

Benevolence is not an indication of insanity, for it is only a reflection of self-interest over others, and is often an expression of the most elevated form of self-interest. True reformers are not insane, but religious enthusiasts may easily be so. The former have a definite idea of practicable methods of advancing the true interests of mankind; while the methods, or aims, or both, of the insane enthusiasts, are at best useless and impracticable. But that the one class graduates into the other, is incontestible.

In the imposition of bodily restraint on the insane, reference will of course be had to the quality of the act, precisely as in the case of the sane. The nature of the act being established, the question now standing in the statutes as to the capacity of the criminal to comprehend the consequences of his acts, would well be considered. He who, with deliberate intent, violates the rights of person and property, is more dangerous to the community, than he who does so as an incidental effect of his aberrations.

The punishment of the former, should be like that of the sane criminal, designed to protect society in two ways; firstly by restraining the criminal himself from inflicting further injury; and secondly, by furnishing persons in the community of similar mental constitution with reasons for believing that it is contrary to their interests to commit like acts. In this way the law would furnish such insane with motives which would produce a change in the balance of the mind, the result being sanity. The punishment of death is as proper in such cases as in that of sane criminals of corresponding grade. The death penalty might even be necessary in the case of that lower grade of the insane who do not understand consequences. In this case the only object sought is the protection of the community, for motives are less operative with these than with the higher class of the insane. In either, the question of moral responsibility is omitted from consideration, as being beyond the range of human knowledge.—C.

— The numbers of the AMERICAN NATURALIST for 1881 were issued on the following dates: January, December 31st, 1880;

February, January 25, 1881; March, February 24; April, March 25; May, April 16; June, May 19; July, June 22; August, July 27; September, August 23; October, September 23; November, October 28; December, December 3.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

MIVART'S THE CAT.¹—The principle underlying the method of modern scientific, particularly biological study, is to examine one animal thoroughly, in order to lay the foundation for further advanced and more comparative studies. So we have books devoted wholly to the anatomy of a few common animals, typical forms, as the frog, the butterfly, or as in the present work, the cat. The tendency is thus to extreme analytical and special views, and such books should be of course used with the understanding that the student will never make a broad, philosophical naturalist unless his studies be made comparative. But it is better to thoroughly know all that can be learned from one kind of cat, than to have a superficial knowledge of cats in general, or mammals at large. Cats are very unequally distributed, and there is always a superfluity of material in our cities, so that the incipient medical student need not lack for material for dissection preliminary to his laboratory practice on the human cadaver. For this class of students this book is all important, while it is also designed for use in colleges and higher schools, or those beginning the study of zoölogy, as an introduction to the study of vertebrate animals.

After describing clearly and simply, with the aid of abundant and most excellent wood engravings, the skeleton, muscles, organs of alimentation, circulation, respiration and secretion, of reproduction, the nervous system, with the physiology of these organs in sufficient detail, a full and adequate account is given of the cat's development.

This important subject appears to be well treated, and is, in part, the result of the author's own observations, a number of the diagrams and illustrations having been prepared for this work.

These chapters occupy about two-thirds of the book, and are succeeded by chapters on the psychology of the cat, and on the different kinds of cats; while the work closes with essays on the cat's place in nature, the cat's "hexicology," or its relations to the world about it and to fossil cats, and finally, Professor Mivart gives us his opinions as to the pedigree and origin of the cat.

In his discussion of the nature of the cat's mind, the young student will be liable to be unduly biassed by Mr. Mivart's dog-

¹ *The Cat*. An introduction to the study of backboneed Animals, especially Mammals. By ST. GEORGE MIVART, Ph.D., F.R.S. With 200 Illustrations. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1881. 8vo. p. 557. \$3.50.